

Nimai and the Pots

Narrator: All Glories, All Glories to Lord Gaurachandra, Who is the Supreme Lord of Lords and All Glories to His Devotees! This play depicts the childhood of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He was known as Nimai in Navadvip Dham and He was very mischievous. Although His parents tried and tried, they could not correct Him.

SCENE ONE At Home

(Nimai enters and breaks a clay pot. Saci runs in.)

Saci: Nimai, what are you doing? You've knocked over my pot! All the milk is wasted!

Nimai: Watch Me knock over another one!

Saci: Stop! This is terrible! Oh, where is Your father?

Nimai: My father is old and can do nothing to stop me.

Saci: (calls) Jagannath Misra! Would you come here, please?
(Jagannath Misra enters)

Jagannath Misra: What is the difficulty now? I'm trying to study the scriptures!

Saci: Look what Nimai has done!

Jagannath Misra: Nimai!

Nimai: My dear father, I hope that you will not chastise Me, for if you do I shall break more pots.

Jagannath Misra: Oh dear! What can be done? Whenever we correct You, You become twice as naughty!

Nimai: I am not afraid of chastisement so no one can teach Me anything. No one can correct Me.
(Visvarupa, the elder brother of Nimai enters.)

Visvarupa: Nimai, did You do this? My dear brother, You have made such a mess. Clean it up, immediately.

Nimai: Yes, Sri Visvarupa, I will clean it up. Is there anything else You'd like Me to do?

(all exit as Nimai begins to clean up. music)

Narrator: As Nimai is none other than Sri Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Nimai's elder brother, Visvarupa, is Lord Balarama. From His birth, Visvarupa was completely renounced and exhibited all saintly qualities. Nimai, although listening to neither His mother nor His father, would become meek and humble in the presence of His elder brother.

SCENE TWO At Advaita Acarya's Ashram

Advaita Acarya: Ah, Visvarupa, please come inside. We are discussing the path of Bhakti Yoga!

Visvarupa: Bhakti is the essence of all Shastra, but people neither teach Bhakti nor practice it.

Advaita Acarya: True, materialistic men find no pleasure in service to Krishna. They are too selfish.

Devotee: And too foolish! The local men in Nadia even laugh at a man just for being a Vaisnava! One foolish fellow said to me, "If even renounced sannyasis and great yogis performing austerities have to die, then what is the use of your efforts. It is better to collect money and ride on a palanquin with twenty servants running behind. Then at least your name will live on in the history of your community."

Advaita Acharya: They are mad after mundane achievements such as wealth, education and good family. They never chant Lord Hari's Names.

Visvarupa: Their ignorance fills Me with sadness!
(Nimai enters quickly)

Narrator: When Nimai entered the house of Advaita Acharya, all the devotees became stunned. He was bare chested and covered with dirt from playing. Nimai smiled and glanced all around at the devotees.

Nimai: Brother, come home and eat. Mother has sent Me to bring You home. She's waiting for You.

Devotee: Nimai! His beautiful form has charmed my heart!

Advaita Acarya: I cannot understand Who this Child is! His beauty is beyond compare!

Devotee: His smiling face and darting eyes have captured me. Now I can no longer concentrate on my studies.

(Nimai catches hold of Visvarupa's dhoti and both exit. The devotees follow Them, in a stunned condition, to the door.)

Devotee: Perhaps Nimai is a demigod Who has been sent to bewilder us with His beautiful features.

Advaita Acarya: I cannot say, but I know that He is not an ordinary child! **(music, then Visvarupa enter again)** Visvarupa, You have returned so quickly! Jai! We shall now go to the house of Srinivas Acarya for kirtana.

Visvarupa: Yes, I told my parents that I was fasting and would chant the Holy Names all through the night. **(all exit)**

SCENE THREE The Ashram of Jagannath Misra

Saci: Visvarupa spends all His time with the Vaisnavas. Even while at home, He takes no part in family affairs. Rather, he will study the scriptures and worship Salagram Sila.

Jagannath Misra: Sacidevi, I think it is time to find Visvarupa a wife.

Saci: Well, there are many nice Brahmana families in Navadvip. I have seen girls of marriageable age by the river.

Jagannath Misra: I will begin inquiring. A wife for Visvarupa will have to be very religious and gentle.

(They exit. Visvarupa enters, disturbed at what He has overheard.)

Visvarupa: My parents are going to plan my marriage?! This is terrible news! I have no desire to be entangled in material affairs! I'd rather take sannyasa and live in the forest, meditating always on Lord Krsna. I will leave tonight.

(music)

SCENE THREE The Next Day

Jagannath Misra: Oh, Visvarupa! I feel as though my life has ended! Visvarupa! Where have you gone!?

Saci: Visvarupa! Visvarupa! I cannot go on living without my son!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa! Why have you left us?!
(Devotee neighbors cone running in)

1st Devotee: What's happened? What calamity has befallen you? I've never seen you so upset!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa has left us. He's run away. We were planning His marriage ... now ... I fear he will take sannyasa, the renounced order of life! I will never see Him again!

2nd Devotee: Oh no! Visvarupa! What shall we do! He has always been such a joy to my life! (He puts his hand on Jagannath Misra's shoulder) My dear friend, I also feel great pain. I also love Him as a son ... but how will losing ourselves in lamentation help?

Jagannath Misra: (sigh) But ...

1st Devotee: Try thinking about it this way - what Visvarupa has done is glorious. Everyone always knew that someday he would take sannyasa and set out to preach near and far. Just think about how His taking sannyasa has delivered your entire family ...

Jagannath Misra: All I know is the pain of my heart, throbbing in separation. Oh, Visvarupa!

1st Devotee: Calm yourself. Calm yourself. Having one son like Nimai is better than having millions of sons. He has strong faith in Krsna, but He is not the renunciate type. Nimai will always stay with His friends and relatives in the village!

2nd Devotee: Yes, think about Nimai! He will remove all Your suffering! His mere glance is as cooling as the rays of the full moon!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa!

2nd Devotee: We never knew how long He would stay with us.

1st Devotee: Lord Krsna gave us Visvarupa and now the Lord Himself has taken Him back. What can be done! Whatever Lord Krsnacandra desires must certainly occur!
(music. all exit)

SCENE FOUR

Jagannath Misra: Nimai, come here and help Your Mother.

Nimai: Yes, Father.

Saci: Carry these pots, please.

Nimai: Yes, Mother. May I do anything else to help you?

Jagannath Misra: Since Your brother left, You've become so gentle and well-behaved! (**Jagannath Misra embraces Nimai.**)

Nimai: Father, may I have your permission to go and study?

Jagannath Misra: Yes, certainly, Nimai. (**Nimai leaves**)

Saci: Nimai has changed so much! Now we have nothing but praise for Him. Our neighbors say that no one can match His scholarship or defeat His arguments. He is so serious about His studies, as well.

Jagannath Misra: Yes, and that seriousness is just what frightens me.

Saci: Why? What do you mean?

Jagannath Misra: It was Visvarupa's serious study of the scriptures that led Him to take sannyasa. By studying Bhagavad Gita, He learned that not a shred of value exists in material life. If Nimai continues to study, I fear He will follow His brother and take sannyasa.

Saci: (gasp) Nimai is all we have!

Jagannath Misra: If He leaves us, I will die! I must stop His studies! It is better that He remains illiterate!

Saci: But, if He is illiterate, how will He maintain Himself? And who will allow their daughter to marry Him?

Jagannath Misra: Don't worry, Krsna provides for everyone, whether the person is educated or not. And anyway, education doesn't insure wealth.

Saci: What do you mean?

Jagannath Misra: Take me for example: We are sufficiently learned, but we don't even have an excess of food in our house. But there are some persons who, without even knowing the Sanskrit alphabet, are able to live in luxury. Everything depends on Krsna.

Saci: But if Nimai doesn't study, what will He do with His time?

Jagannath Misra: Anything He likes ... anything but study the scriptures! **(they exit)**

Narrator: That evening, when Nimai returned from school, He was told that His studies were terminated. Being obedient to His Father's wishes, He remained at home. Nimai didn't complain, but He again resumed His naughty, restless behavior.

SCENE FIVE In the Courtyard

Nimai: Boys, boys! Come quickly! I have a plan!

1st Boy: Yes, yes. What is it?

2nd Boy: We're ready!

Nimai: Look at those banana trees, they are full of bananas! Let's steal them!

1st Boy: Yeah!

2nd Boy: Alright, that will be easy!

Nimai: And tonight, when it is dark we can tie the doors of our neighbors on all side with rope and in the morning, when they awaken, they will be locked inside!

1st Boy: Let's go fight with the boys in town!

Nimai: No, I know an old lady who lives near here, let's go and smash all her clay pots!

2nd Boy: Very good! Very good!

Nimai: Then we can splash old men at the Ganges River!
(they exit. music)

SCENE SIX At The Garbage Dump

Narrator: From morning 'til night, Nimai would play and cause mischief. Day after day, He made trouble but Jagannath Misra would not chastise Him. Then, one day, Nimai climbed upon a huge pile of discarded pots and told the boys to call His Mother to the spot ...

Boys: (calling) Mother Saci! Mother Saci! **(they exit, in a moment Mother Saci runs on)**

Saci: Nimai! What are You doing sitting there? Get down! Don't You know that is not a proper place to sit?

Nimai: Mother, since you have not sent Me to school, I've forgotten what is right and what is wrong.

Saci: Your clothes have become dirty. Get down quickly!

Nimai: Without an education, I am unable to realize the difference between clean and dirty.

Saci: Please don't joke with me. These pots are contaminated and You're sitting in an impure place. Climb down immediately!

Nimai: This place where I sit is impure? Even if it is impure, wherever I sit becomes pure. All the Holy Places and the Ganges River reside wherever I am.

Saci: Why are You speaking like this? Please get down.

1st Neighbor: What is happening? Nimai, what is the matter?

Nimai: My Mother and Father will not allow me to study, therefore I am sitting here and I will not get down.

2nd Neighbor: Why do you forbid Nimai to go to school.

Saci: It is the will of His father.

2nd Neighbor: You cannot allow Nimai to grow up a fool. Come Child, get down and we shall speak to Your father. **(Nimai climbs down, all exit, music)**

SCENE SEVEN At Jagannath Misra's Ashram

2nd Neighbor: Dear friend, please don't forbid Nimai to study. Whatever Lord Krishna desires will come true. We cannot control destiny with our meager plans. Discard your fears, and do what is right.

1st Neighbor: You are very fortunate that your son desires to learn. Choose an auspicious day and have Nimai initiated with the sacred thread. Let the Boy again study.

Jagannath Misra: You are my dearest friends and my elders. If all of you insist, I will agree.

3rd Neighbor: Your child is not an ordinary boy. Keep Him close to your heart with great care.

Jagannath Misra: Yes, I will. Thank you for coming. Hare Krsna!

Narrator: Thus Nimai, the Supreme Lord of Vaikuntha, enjoyed His own transcendental pastimes and, with His father's permission, He joyfully returned to His studies. Soon He was known as Nimai Pandit, a teacher of grammar who used the scriptures brilliantly in His lessons.